

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – August 1, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Luke Messinger called the Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at 7:05 pm at the City of Gahanna.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Diane Cantrell
Luke Messinger
Dot Micacchion
Eric Miller
Dave Thom
Vincent Tremante

Absent: Marlene Eader

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director, Troy Euton, Deputy Director and Abbey Brooks, Recreation Supervisor, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Thom made a **MOTION** to approve the June 6, 2007 meeting minutes; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Cantrell, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Thom made a **MOTION** to approve the August 1, 2007 agenda; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes and Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lynne Vermillion 647 Ridenour Road Gahanna, Ohio

OLD BUSINESS:

Pooch Playground Advisory Committee

Luke Messinger asked the Board for discussion on establishing a Pooch Playground Advisory Committee to assist with development and operations of the Pooch Playground.

Tony Collins stated that staff recommends the group should include: several Pooch Playground volunteers, a local veterinarian, and a local police representative. The Committee will be the official sounding board of the pooch playground.

Micacchion volunteered to be the Parks & Recreation Board representative on the Pooch Playground Advisory Committee.

Thom made a **MOTION** for the Chairman to create an ad hoc committee to look into recommendations for the Pooch Playground committee members; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Messinger, Yes and Micacchion, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0**

Service to the Community Awards

Abbey Brooks discussed that the Service to the Community Awards will be on August 24, 2007 at 6 pm at Friendship Park. The Board reviewed the invitation, program and possible awards. The Board decided on engraved wind chimes to give to the award winners.

Youth Council

Abbey Brooks distributed the Youth Council representative application for the Parks Board. There will be two representatives serving a six month staggered term. After some discussion it was decided that Youth Council representatives will have an opportunity to report information to the board under the Committee Reports section of the Parks Board meeting. The representatives should begin in October.

NEW BUSINESS:

Collins updated the Board the following items:

Collins discussed the TIFF Award the City of Gahanna received for the Creekside Project. The City of Gahanna was invited by a national economic review group to apply for the award. The finalists were St. Louis, San Antonio and one other large city. The City of Gahanna won as the most Innovative Project.

Money Magazine named Gahanna one of the Top 100 Cities of our size as places to live, one of two in Central Ohio, one of six in the State of Ohio.

The City's bond rating was elevated again by Standard & Poor's. Standard & Poor's believe the City is an economically strong community. After the bond rating was elevated the City sold its bonds for the current development projects, the bonds were bought quickly, with institutions still wanting to purchase them. The City also has a low insurance rating on the bonds due to the rating.

Collins stated that several staff members from the Department of Parks & Recreation will be attending the NRPA Conference this year in Indianapolis. Board members interested in attending the conference should contact the Parks & Recreation office.

Donation and Fee Waiver Request

The Board reviewed the donation and fee waiver requests. The organizations making request are:

1. New Life Church – Classic Car Cruise-In Fundraiser on August 31, 2007
2. Huntington National Bank – 2007 United Way Campaign Fundraiser
3. OSU Development Office – Staff Appreciation event on August 14, 2007
4. Jewish Community Center – Fundraiser on August 27, 2007

5. Mansfield Lahm Military Families – Fundraiser on September 7, 2007
6. Fore Hope – Memorial Adaptive Tournament on September 14, 2007
7. The Dispatch Printing Company – Gold Tournament for Mid-Ohio Food bank on September 23, 2007
8. Foxboro Pool – Fundraiser on August 16, 2007
9. Vineyard Church of Columbus – Golf Tournament Fundraiser on August 26, 2007
10. Children's Hospital Twig 178 – Fee waiver request for use of Friendship Park Shelter on August 25, 2007
11. Knights of Columbus – Gahanna Chapter – Fee waiver request for use of Friendship Park Shelter on September 23, 2007

Cantrell made a **MOTION** that the Board supports the recommendation of four golf passes to New Life Church and Foxboro Pool, two golf passes Huntington National Bank, OSU Development Office, Jewish Community Center, Mansfield Lahm Military Families, Fore Hope, The Dispatch Printing Company and Vineyard Church of Columbus; seconded by Thom. **On roll call vote:** Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes and Thom, Yes. **Motion carried 6- 0 and was approved.**

Tremante made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation for a fee waiver for Twig 178 use of Friendship Park Shelter, in recognition of their work equity they provide for the Department of Parks & Recreation; seconded by Cantrell. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Cantrell, Yes. **Motion carried 6 - 0 and was approved.**

Miller made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation for a fee waiver for the Knights of Columbus for use of Friendship Park Shelter; seconded by Thom. **On roll call vote:** Micacchion, No, Miller, No, Thom, No, Tremante, No, Cantrell, No and Messinger, No. **Motion carried 6 - 0 and was denied.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

Several thank you letters and the Oxbow Restoration Report was passed around.

Collins explained the reason for the report was to obtain an analysis of the entire Big Walnut Creek including Creekside. The issues of erosion have been addressed. Tremante stated the Oxbow Restoration Report proposes good stabilization recommendations.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Collins distributed the Director's Report, which includes the highlights for the pool, golf course and programs.

The Department is working on interpretative signage for several parks.

Hannah Park should begin new construction on October 15th. The dog park will be re-located.

McCorkle Park playground is scheduled to be replaced. The City bought the equipment and marked the spot. Several citizens called and with concerns on the placement of the new playground due to being directly behind their property. Several options were discussed with staff and the football league; it was decided to put the playground in the center field. The end results will be better for everyone. The park will now feel like a community park, with a path leading to the playground and fields on each side.

COMMITTEES' REPORT

Bikeway Advisory Committee

Tremante stated at the last meeting there were a couple presentations on conducting a study of the Walnut corridor seeing where the alignment should go and the cost. The Committee will get addition proposals. MORPC presented the regional bikeway plan and MORPC efforts with bikeway plans.

The priority of the committee is to develop the final plan for the Big Walnut trail and the second priority of remaining funds into improving the trail.

Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)

Cantrell stated the group is no longer seeking office space to co-locate the Gahanna Chamber of Commerce, Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau and Gahanna Inc. due to the limited office space in the City. CIC donated \$5,000 to the Gahanna High School athletic field renovation. Last year's grant Olde Gahanna Community Partnership was to lead the development of a SID in old Gahanna and extend into west Gahanna. Due to several circumstances OGCP is unable to complete this project. CIC voted to fund a consulting group to complete the SID.

Creekside Development Team meeting

Collins explained the team was updated on the progress of the construction at Creekside, the lagoon is poured, and the street tree work will start soon.

Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Tremante stated the Committee took an inventory of Hannah Park and made recommendations for the design team. In August the Committee will begin compiling the information from Academy Park and Woodside Green Park.

Tremante would like to be ready for Natural Resources Week in 2008. Tremante want to make an effort to make an effort to get businesses involved in the week. Tremante would like anyone who has contacts with businesses who might be interested in corporate volunteer work for the week.

Foundation Committee

No updates at this time

Veterans Memorial Committee

No updates at this time

POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:

Tremante stated that Music in the Parks has been great this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Cantrell made a **MOTION** to adjourn; seconded by Tremante. The motion carried, unanimously.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2007

Luke Messinger, Chair